

**Golf Commission Meeting
May 24, 1010
Minutes**

Members Present: Don Espach, Chairman; Owen Evans, Vice-Chairman; Ron Dray; Dave Galla; Jim Steidlmayer; Jonathan Turk (arrived 7:45 PM)

Members Absent: George Furkiotis; Bruce Gerstman; Tony Johnson

Don Espach called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Review and approval of the Minutes:

Review and approval of the Minutes of April 26, 2010 ... There was a motion made by Mr. Evans seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer to approve the minutes as is. Motion carried unanimously.

Audience Participation:

- Mrs. Kristine Miklus, representing the Don Miklus Foundation, updated the Commission on the status of several projects the organization is working on:
 - The Miklus Building Committee held a meeting where it was decided to obtain final quotes to do the preliminary work consisting of:
 1. Make the building structurally sound
 2. Remove existing wiring to prepare for new electrical
 3. Complete the front door and portico
 - New business cards were distributed
 - The Foundation has submitted its first income tax statement
 - The Miklus Tournament Committee met to work on the 3rd Annual Don Miklus Memorial Golf Tourney to be held on August 2, 2010.
 - Flyers were distributed for the mini golf event to be held at the Trumbull Public Library on Sunday, July 11th with a preview for adults on Saturday, July 10th.
 - BMW has offered to make a generous donation to the training center in exchange for placing their name on a plaque outside the building. The Commission will look into any legal issues involved in placing a sign on a town building.

Director of Golf Course Properties Report (Hidalgo Nagashima):

Labor:

- Director of Operations – Golf Course Properties (Hidalgo Nagashima); Mechanic (Rich Plaveck); Four full-time greensmen (Jeff Cook, Jerry Cook, Chris Gallant, Craig Romano)
- Ten part-time greensman (Hoeppner, Markaj, Kearney, Goodwin, DeFrancisco, Ebert, Oleyar, Valuzzo, Main, Quinn)
- Summer seasonal help has started this week as well.

Maintenance Department Outline:

- Overall the course is in good shape. The greens are getting better and are rolling more consistently and speeding up. The secondary areas are being aerified and seeded including the roughs, along cart paths and other thin areas. The approaches were also aerified to allow more water to travel to the root zone.
- The part-time seasonal crew will concentrate on the bunkers including edging, weeding, picking rocks, and fixing the faces.
- The Glen greens were aerated and are overall in good shape. Sod has been added to the bunker face on #6 and #7, the tee area on #9 and next week will be added to #2 Knolls and #9 Glen.
- Both courses have been fertilized wall-to-wall.
- Mr. Nagashima discussed the overall weather conditions in the Northeast. Despite a rainy season early in the year, conditions have been dry lately. It is a difficult time of year with the balance between too much stress from the dryness versus over watering. Mr. Nagashima is constantly monitoring the situation and hand watering areas under stress.

Maintenance Department Follow Up:

- Sixteen Norway spruce trees were purchased to protect the walkers going to and from the driving range. They will all be planted this week.
- The wood was removed from bunker #12. The bunker complex on #16 has been opened and the wood will be removed within the next two weeks.
- All of the bunker liner on #3 has been removed except the cover over the drains.
- The bunker areas will be sprayed for bees.
- The situation regarding the ants on #17 and the putting green will be monitored.
- The felt on bunkers #4 and #10 will be fixed when they are reworked.

Green Committee (Owen Evans):

- Mr. Evans reported that he recently attended an event at Rolling Hills, which is a very expensive, exclusive club. He stated that their conditions are similar to ours with some browned out areas due to the dry conditions.

Head Professional Report (Jon Janik):

Tournaments:

- Trumbull Fathers Club had 138 players
- Kiwanis of Fairfield had 88 players

- Trumbull Rotary had 125 players
- St. Vincent's Special Needs had a double shotgun with 217 players
- TKGC Men's Member/Member had 96 players
- TKGC Men's Stableford had 53 players
- TK Senior Men's Glen Tournament had 32 players

Instructional Programs:

- Six LPGA Junior girls clinics averaged 40 girls – there are a total of 179 girls in the program this year
- One Ladies Golf School had 11 players
- 13 adult clinics
- 32 junior instructional classes
- Four league events
- The Adult/Junior tournament had 38 players

General Manager Report (Bobby Brown):

Golf Operations:

- April 2010 rounds: 5904 (Knolls – 4173; Glen 1831) vs. 5379 in 2009
- The majority of growth in the rounds have been on the Glen
- May rounds to date are slightly up with revenue slightly down.

Plant & Facility:

- The Parks department is working with the manufacturer to replace the solar light at the bottom of Tashua Knolls Lane which is not working.
- The Tashua Knolls sign at Route 25 and Tashua Road has been at the manufacturer for a year. The issue remains between the insurance company and the Town and who is paying for it.
- The bid for attic insulation will go out this week. We may have to encumber the funds for the project for the next fiscal year.
- The current driving range net cannot be extended on the current poles. The two options are 1) replace the poles and purchase a taller net, or 2) install a canopy over the range mats. Mr. Brown will contact net manufacturers for additional options.

House Committee (Tony Johnson):

- The 15-ton air unit is currently working. Added Comfort will be providing a description of the work performed.

Finance (Dave Galla):

- April revenue is up 4.9% over 2009. The Glen greens fees are up 16% and the Knolls is up 4% for April as well.
- The expense issues continue to be attic insulation and air conditioning repairs.
- The 2011 budget was approved as submitted.
- Planning for 2011 capital expenditures is underway.

- Work is beginning on the golf cart lease which is up for renewal

Correspondence:

- Mr. Espach read two letters from the Trumbull Rotary – one from Greg Bivona and one from Steve Jakab. Both letters complimented the entire Tashua Knolls staff on their work on the Rotary Tournament held on May 17th.
- Mr. Evans presented a request from the CSGA for a 2011 Father/Son Tournament.

Mr. Steidlmayer made a motion; seconded by Mr. Galla to approve the CSGA request for a Father/Son Tournament to be held on Monday July 18th, 2011 with greens fees waived. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- A discussion was held to permit Gralor, Inc. to operate a beverage and snack cart at times and hours to be mutually agreed upon by the Golf Commission and Gralor. The Commissioners voiced various pros and cons to the issues. Several felt that a beverage cart would be an asset to the course in that it would be an added service to our customers. They also felt that it would speed up pace-of-play, particularly at the turn. Other Commissioners felt that it was a distraction to the golfers on the course.

Mr. Steidlmayer made a motion; seconded by Mr. Galla to approve the concept of permitting a beverage cart to be operated by Gralor, Inc. at Tashua Knolls Golf Course. Motion failed: Oppose – 3 (Dray, Evans, Turk); Approve – 2 (Steidlmayer, Galla)

New Business:

- Mr. Brown presented a policy to expand employee complimentary playing privileges on the Knolls on weekdays to include open times before 2:00 PM and other related items. The Commissioners briefly discussed the policy and felt that it was in line with what other courses are doing. The Commissioners felt that the policy must be policed to ensure that employees do not take time away from a paying customer.

Mr. Evans made a motion; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer to approve the Tashua Knolls employee golf policy as follows:

1. Complimentary Tashua Knolls greens fees be extended to anytime on a space available basis Monday - Friday

2. Complimentary Tashua Knolls greens fees are extended on a space available basis on weekends and holidays anytime during the 3rd wave or after 3:00 PM, whichever comes first.
3. Complimentary Tashua Glen greens fees be extended on a space available basis to include after 1:00 PM on weekends and holidays
4. Golf carts can be used free-of-charge by employees 18 years and older with a valid driver's license. Golf carts must be wash, cleaned of trash, and put back on charger
5. All employees will be coded as Seniors for play during non-complimentary periods

Motion carried unanimously.

- A meeting was held between Tashua Knolls management and various Town Hall employees to discuss the open position of Assistant Superintendent. The meeting resulted in two recommendations. One to transfer money from the full-time salary account to the seasonal salary account to allow for the hiring of additional seasonal staff. And two, to pursue the creation of a Senior Greenskeeper position which will take several months to resolve.

Mr. Galla made a motion; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer to go before the Board of Finance to request a transfer of \$28,800 from the Salary Full Time Permanent account (501101) to the Salary Seasonal account (501103). Motion carried – 4; Abstain (Evans).

Mr. Dray made a motion; seconded by Mr. Turk to pursue the feasibility of creating a Senior Greenskeeper position to allow for additional supervision of full and part-time help. Motion carried – 4; Abstain (Evans).

A motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM was made by Mr. Dray; seconded by Mr. Steidlmayer. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Plumeau
Golf Commission Clerk